

**U.S. Department of Commerce
National Institute of Standards and Technology**

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION SAFETY TEAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Membership Balance Plan

- (1) **Name.** National Construction Safety Team (NCST) Advisory Committee (Committee)
- (2) **Authority.** National Construction Safety Team Act (P.L. 107-231)
- (3) **Mission/Function.** The function of the NCST Advisory Committee is to advise the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on carrying out the NCST Act, to review the procedures developed for the establishment and deployment of National Construction Safety Teams (Teams), and to review reports issued as part of an investigation. In addition, on January 1 of each year, the Committee shall transmit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report that includes: (1) an evaluation of Team activities, along with recommendations to improve the operation and effectiveness of Teams; and (2) an assessment of the implementation of the recommendations of Teams and of the Committee.
- (4) **Points of View.** The NCST Act authorizes the Director of NIST to establish Teams for deployment after events causing the failure of a building or buildings that have resulted in substantial loss of life or that posed significant potential for substantial loss of life. The purpose of investigations by the Teams is to improve the safety and structural integrity of buildings in the United States. Teams perform the following duties: (1) establish the likely technical cause or causes of the building failure; (2) evaluate the technical aspects of evacuation and emergency response procedures; (3) recommend, as necessary, specific improvements to building standards, codes, and practices based on the findings; and, (4) recommend any research and other appropriate actions needed to improve the structural safety of buildings, and improve evacuation and emergency response procedures, based on the findings of the investigation.

The Committee shall consist of not fewer than 5 nor more than 10 members. Members shall reflect the wide diversity of technical disciplines and competencies involved in the NCST investigations. Members shall be selected on the basis of established records of distinguished service in their professional community and their knowledge of issues affecting the Teams. Members shall serve as Special Government Employees (SGEs) and will be subject to the ethics standards applicable to SGEs. Members serve at the discretion of the Director of NIST.

- (5) **Other Balance Factors.** Members will be drawn from industry and other communities having an interest in the NCST investigations, such as, but not limited to, universities, state and local government bodies, non-profit research institutions, and other Federal agencies and laboratories.

(6) Candidate Identification Process. NIST uses a nomination process to identify candidates for the Committee. Nominations are requested through an annual announcement in the Federal Register and through direct e-mail announcements distributed to a broad list of individuals in industry, academia, and the Federal government. Candidates may be nominated by their peers or may self-nominate. NIST requests that the nomination include a resume for the individual, specifically identify the expertise of the individual being nominated, and indicate the stature of the individual (e.g., member of the National Academy of Engineering or Sciences, American Institute of Architects Fellow, etc.). Candidates are grouped by their area of expertise. Within each expertise group, a list of highly qualified candidates is developed based upon a review of the candidates' qualifications by the Director of Disaster and Failure Studies Program and, where appropriate, in consultation with subject matter experts in the Engineering Laboratory (EL). Qualifications considered include: education, professional experience, and stature. From the list of highly qualified candidates, the EL Director selects one or more candidates for further consideration to fill vacancies on the Committee. These candidates are contacted to ascertain their willingness and ability to serve if selected. Based on the list of highly qualified candidates and their willingness to serve, the EL Director recommends the list of nominees to the NIST Director, who makes the final decision for appointment to the NCST Advisory Committee.

Committee members serve three year terms and may serve two consecutive terms. A member that has completed two consecutive full terms on the Committee is ineligible to serve a third term for a period of one year following the expiration of the second term.

(7) Subcommittee Balance. The NIST Director may establish subcommittees from among the members as may be necessary, subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and its implementing regulations, and applicable Department of Commerce guidance. Any subcommittees established must report back to the parent committee, and must not provide advice and work products directly to NIST.

(8) Other. N/A.

(9) Date Prepared/Updated. August 2014